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A new species of *Brotheas* C. L. Koch, 1838 from Brazilian Amazonia (Scorpiones: Chactidae)

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vicariance;
Amazonia;
Brazil.

Abstract. – A new species of scorpion, *Brotheas pseudogranulatus* **sp. n.** (Scorpiones: Chactidae), is described from the state of Amazonas in Brazil, near the border with Colombia. The new species is notably characterized by a strong granulation over the carapace and tergites, and appears as a possible vicariant element with *Brotheas granulatus* Simon, 1877, from the Guayana region of South America. The total number of *Brotheas* species is now raised to 31, of which 14 occur in the Amazon Basin, including 11 from the Brazilian Amazonia. The geographical distribution of the genus *Brotheas* is also enlarged.

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Introduction

Studies on the Amazonian scorpion fauna and, in particular, on the Studies on the Amazonian scorpion fauna and, in particular, on the members of the family Chactidae, began in the second half of the 19th century with a number of publications including those of Karsch (1879), Simon (1877, 1880) and Pocock (1893, 1897, 1900). Most of this work, however, focused on the oriental Amazonia, mainly eastern Brazil and parts of the Guayana region of South America. In his monograph on the scorpions of South America, Mello-Leitão (1945) proposed a synthesis of the family Chactidae. Beginning of the 1970's, several studies were published describing a large number of new taxa belonging to the family Chactidae. The most important work was done by González-Sponga (summarized in González-Sponga, 1996), who dealt almost exclusively with the fauna of Venezuela. Also relevant were the investigations carried out by Lourenço (1983, 1986, 1988a,b, 1994, 1995a,b, 1997), Lourenço & Pinto da Rocha (2000), and Monod & Lourenço (2001). These indicated that the scorpion fauna of Amazonia is certainly far more complex than previously assumed, and suggested that many new species still remain to be discovered (Lourenço, 2002).
The genus *Brotheas* C. L. Koch, 1837 is one of the chactid scorpion groups best represented in the Neotropical scorpion fauna. Most species of this genus are concentrated in the Amazonian and Guayanian floristic provinces (Mori 1991, Prance & Lovejoy 1985, Adis 2002). By the time Mello-Leitão (1945) published his monograph on South American scorpions, only one species, *Brotheas paraensis* Simon, 1880, was known from Brazil, while a second species, *Brotheas gervaisii* Pocock, 1863, was suspected to occur in Brazilian Amazonia (Amapá state). In fact, most *Brotheas* species currently known from the Brazilian Amazonia have been described only in recent years (Lourenço 2002a,b, 2008, 2012, Lourenço & Machado 2004, Lourenço *et al*., 2011).
In the present paper, one more new species of *Brotheas* is described from Brazilian Amazonia, based on an immature female collected in the region of Manguari, near the Rio Japurá, Amazonas State, close to the border with Colombia. This represents the 14th element of the genus recorded from the Amazon Basin (of which 11 species occur in the Brazilian Amazonia), bringing the total number of *Brotheas* species to 31. Our decision to describe the new species based on an immature (fourth instar) specimen is justified by the fact that the locality where it was collected is uncommon as it has rarely been surveyed. Moreover, the characters used to define the new species show very little to no variability between fourth instar and adult female in the genus *Brotheas*. Should adults be collected in the future, additional information can be provided.

Material and Methods

Illustrations were made with the aid of a Wild M5 stereo-microscope with a drawing tube (camera lucida). Measurements were made with the aid of a Motic SMZ-171 stereo-microscope with an ocular micrometer. Habitus photographs were made with a Canon EOS RP and Adobe Photoshop. The map was produced using maps-for-free.com and Adobe Photoshop. Measurements follow those of Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Trichobothrial notations are those

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developed by Vachon (1974) and the morphological terminology mostly follows Hjelle (1990). The type specimen will be deposited in the MNRJ ('Museu Nacional', Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). Comparative material examined in this study is deposited in the EYPC (Eric Ythier Private Collection, Romanèche-Thorins, France).

Composition of the genus *Brotheas* in the Amazon Basin (in order of description)

Brotheas granulatus Simon, 1877 (Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana)
Brotheas paraensis Simon, 1880 (Brazil)
Brotheas gervaisii Pocock, 1893 (Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname)
Brotheas camposi González-Sponga, 1972 (Colombia, Venezuela)
Brotheas amazonicus Lourenço, 1988 (Brazil)
Brotheas overali Lourenço, 1988 (Brazil)
Brotheas silvestris Lourenço, 1988 (Brazil)
Brotheas rionegroensis González-Sponga, 1996 (Venezuela)
Brotheas jourdani Lourenço, 1997 (Brazil)
Brotheas henriquesi Lourenço & Machado, 2004 (Brazil)
Brotheas bolivianus Lourenço, 2008 (Bolivia)
Brotheas caramaschii Lourenço, Giupponi & Pedroso, 2011 (Brazil)
Brotheas tapajos Lourenço, 2012 (Brazil)
Brotheas pseudogranulatus **sp**. **n**. (Brazil)

Taxonomic treatment

Family **Chactidae** Pocock, 1893

Genus ***Brotheas*** C. L. Koch, 1838

***Brotheas pseudogranulatus* sp**. **n**.

(Fig. 1-12)

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/AFFADF33-9B47-4387-81A1-A53DAF20081D

Type material examined. – Brazil, Amazonas, Rio Japurá, Manguari – V. (Vila) Bittencourt, V/1987 (local population – leg J.-B. Lacroix). Holotype, 1 immature ♀. Type material deposited in the MNRJ.

Comparative material examined **(**deposited in the EYCP)

Brotheas granulatus Simon, 1877

French Guiana

- Rorota, **3** ♀, E. Ythier coll., 28/IX/2005;
- Matoury, **1** ♀, 15 second and third instar immature specimens, E. Ythier coll., 03/XI/2006;
- Fourgassier, **1** ♂, E. Ythier coll., 04/XI/2006;
- Trésor, **1** ♂, coll. unknown, VI/2010;
- Kaw, **1** ♀, **1** ♂, P. Escoubas coll., X/2011;
- Petit-Saut, **3** ♀, P. Escoubas coll., X/2011;
- Nouragues, inselberg, **1** ♀, C. Courtial coll. XII/2013;
- Roche Virginie, **2** ♀, E. Ythier, G. Roy, J. Da Costa & C. Aubert coll., 25/X/2018;
- Cacao, Molokoï, **1** ♂, E. Ythier, G. Roy, J. Da Costa & C. Aubert coll., 27/X/2018;
- Annamites, **2** ♂, E. Ythier, G. Roy, J. Da Costa & C. Aubert coll., 29/X/2018;
- Itoupé, **1** third instar immature ♀, C. Benoit & H. Delvaux coll., 2021;
- Matoury, Chaumière, **1** fifth instar immature ♀, **1** ♂, E. Ythier coll., 07/VIII/2023;
- Bélizon, Bonaventure, **1** ♂, **1** second instar immature ♀, E. Ythier, G. Roy, J. Da Costa & C. Aubert coll., 12/X/2024;
- Crique Marguerite, **1** fourth instar immature ♂, E. Ythier, S. Dupont & G. Roy coll., 11/II/2026.

Etymology. – The specific name refers to the morphologically closely related species and possible vicariant element, *B.* granulatus from the Guayana region, with the addition of the Greek prefix "pseudo-", forming "*pseudogranulatus*".

Diagnosis. – Scorpion of probably moderate size for the genus, estimated at around 50 mm for the female; the holotype immature female has a total length of 31.91 mm and most certainly corresponds to a fourth instar specimen. The age of the specimen is based on the theoretical morphometric growth factor of 1.26 for the development of arthropods as defined by Dyar (1890) and Przibram & Megusar (1912), as well as on previous developmental studies conducted on members of the family Chactidae (Lourenço *et al*., 2003) and on our observations of the sizes of various instars within the genus *Brotheas*. Coloration reddish yellow to reddish brown. Carapace slightly convex anteriorly, strongly granulated. Mesosoma with strong granulation of similar size on all tergites. Spiracles moderately elongated. Pectines with 8-7 teeth in female. Metasomal segments with dorsal, latero-dorsal and latero-ventral carinae well-marked; ventral carinae present on segment I, with spinoid granules on segments IV and V; other carinae incomplete. Telson with four carinae on ventral side. Chela fixed and movable fingers with 6 and 7 rows of granules, respectively.

Description of the female holotype

Coloration. – Basically, reddish yellow to reddish brown. Carapace reddish yellow, darker anteriorly. Tergites reddish brown. Metasomal segments reddish brown, with darker variegated pigmentation on dorsal surface and over carinae; vesicle reddish yellow; aculeus reddish. Chelicerae yellowish with reticular brownish pigmentation over the entire surface; fingers yellowish brown with teeth reddish. Pedipalps reddish brown with darker zones over the carinae; fingers dark brown. Legs reddish yellow with some diffuse variegated brownish pigmentation. Venter reddish yellow; sternites reddish yellow; pectines and genital operculum with the same colour as sternites.

Morphology. – Carapace with anterior border slightly convex; strong granulation over the entire surface; ocular tubercle punctate; furrows moderately deep. Tergites acarinate, with strong granulation of similar size on all tergites. Sternum pentagonal, wider than long. Sternites smooth and shiny, with minute punctations; VII acarinate with some granulation laterally; spiracles moderately elongated. Pectinal tooth count 8-7, fulcra absent. All metasomal segments with dorsal, latero-dorsal and latero-ventral carinae well-marked; ventral carinae present on all segments, with spinoid granules on segments IV and V; other carinae incomplete; intercarinal tegument with a few granulations and punctations. Metasomal segments I-II wider than long, III as wide as long, IV-V longer than wide. Vesicle with four carinae on ventral side; lateral and ventral sides weakly granulated; aculeus long compared to vesicle, wide at its basis. Pedipalps: femur with dorsal internal, dorsal external and ventral internal carinae well marked; ventral external carina moderately marked; dorsal, ventral and internal faces moderately granulated. Patella moderately granulated, with dorsal internal and ventral internal carinae well marked; ventral external and dorsal external carinae moderately marked; external carina vestigial. Chela with small granulations on internal surface; all carinae weakly marked to vestigial; dentate margins on fixed and movable fingers composed of 6 and 7 rows of granules, respectively, separated by stronger accessory granules. Chelicerae with dentition typical of the family Chactidae (Vachon, 1963), and with intense setation ventrally and dorso-internally. Trichobothriotaxy type C; neobothriotaxic 'majorante' (Vachon, 1974).

Morphometric values (mm) of the female holotype of *Brotheas pseudogranulatus* **sp**. **n**.

– ***Total length***, including telson, 31.91.

– ***Carapace***
length, 5.14;
anterior width, 3.05;
posterior width, 5.71.

– ***Mesosoma*** length, 8.29.

Fig. **1-2**. *Brotheas pseudogranulatus* **sp**. **n**., female holotype, habitus.
1. Dorsal aspect. **2**. Ventral aspect.

– ***Metasomal segments***
I: length, 1.71; width, 2.86;
II: length, 2.10; width, 2.48;
III: length, 2.38; width, 2.38;
IV: length, 2.86; width, 2.19;
V: length, 4.76; width, 2.10; depth, 1.71.

– ***Telson***
length, 4.67;
vesicle: width, 1.43; depth, 1.24.

– ***Pedipalp***
femur length, 3.71, width, 1.71;
patella length, 4.48, width, 2.57;
chela length, 8.76, width, 2.76, depth, 3.05;
movable finger length, 4.76.

Relationships. – The new species shows clear affinities with *B. granulatus*, occurring in the Guayana region (Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and the Amapá state in Brazil), and both species may represent possible vicariant elements.

Nevertheless, *B. pseudogranulatus* **sp**. **n**. can be distinguished by a number of characters, notably:

(**i**) a smaller general estimated size (average size ranging from 58 to 68 mm in *B. granulatus*),

(**ii**) carapace more convex anteriorly,

(**iii**) mesosoma with granulation of similar size on all tergites (stronger on tergites VI-VII in *B. granulatus*),

(**iv**) spiracles less elongated and linear,

(**v**) tergites and sternites with less dense setation,

(**vi**) metasoma with ventral carinae present on segment I (absent to vestigial in *B. granulatus*),

(**vii**) telson with stronger ventral carinae,

(**viii**) trichobothriotaxy slightly different,

(**ix**) Moreover, the two species present a disjointed geographical distribution (Fig. 13).

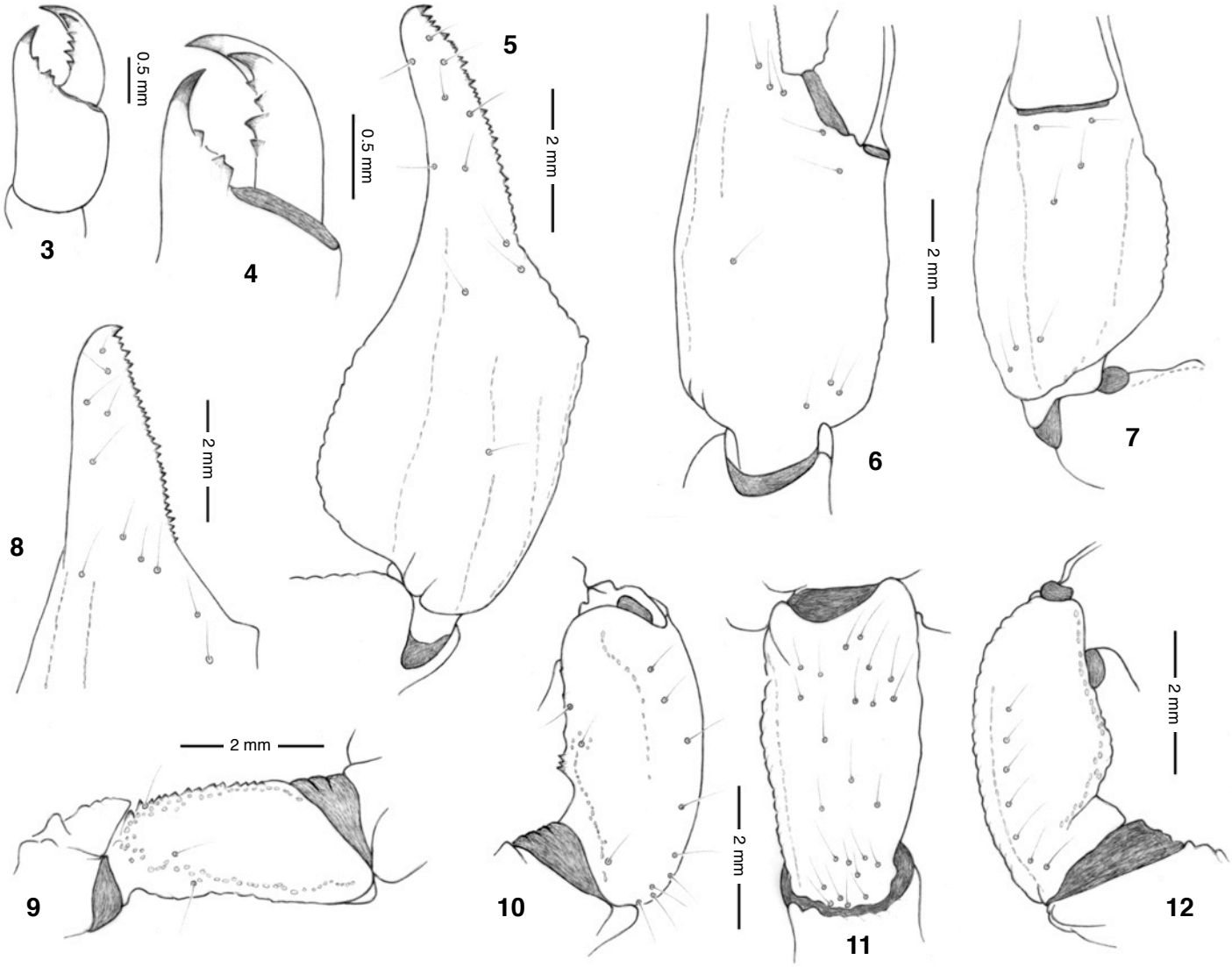

Fig. **3-12**. *Brotheas pseudogranulatus* **sp**. **n**., female holotype.

3. Chelicera, dorsal aspect. **4**. Cheliceral teeth, dorsal aspect. **5-13**. Trichobothrial pattern. **5-7**. Chela, dorso-external (**5**), external (**6**) and ventral (**7**) aspects. **8**. Chela fixed finger, lateral aspect. **9**. Femur, dorsal aspect. **10-12**. Patella, dorsal (**10**), external (**11**) and ventral (**12**) aspects.

B. pseudogranulatus **sp. n.** can also be easily distinguished from all other *Brotheas* species occurring in the Amazon Basin (Fig. 13-14) notably by the strong granulation over the entire surface of the carapace and tergites (carapace and tergites punctated in *B. bolivianus*, *B. henriquesi*, *B. jourdani*, *B. paraensis*, *B. rionegroensis* and *B. tapajos*; carapace and tergites punctated with some granules posteriorly except VII, granulated in *B. camposi*; carapace and tergites weakly granulated in *B. gervaisii* and *B. overali*; carapace weakly granulated and tergites weakly to moderately granulated in *B. silvestris*; carapace moderately granulated and tergites punctated except VII, granulated in *B. amazonicus*; carapace strongly granulated and tergites punctated except VI, granulated distally and VII, strongly granulated in *B. caramaschii*).

Finally, the new species can also be easily distinguished from the *Brotheas* species described from southern Venezuela (*B. mingueti* González-Sponga, 1973, *B. mawarinumensis* González-Sponga, 1991, *B. perezramirezi* González-Sponga, 1996 and *B. lichyi* González-Sponga, 1980) by the strong granulation over the entire surface of the carapace and tergites (entirely or partially punctated in all cited species).

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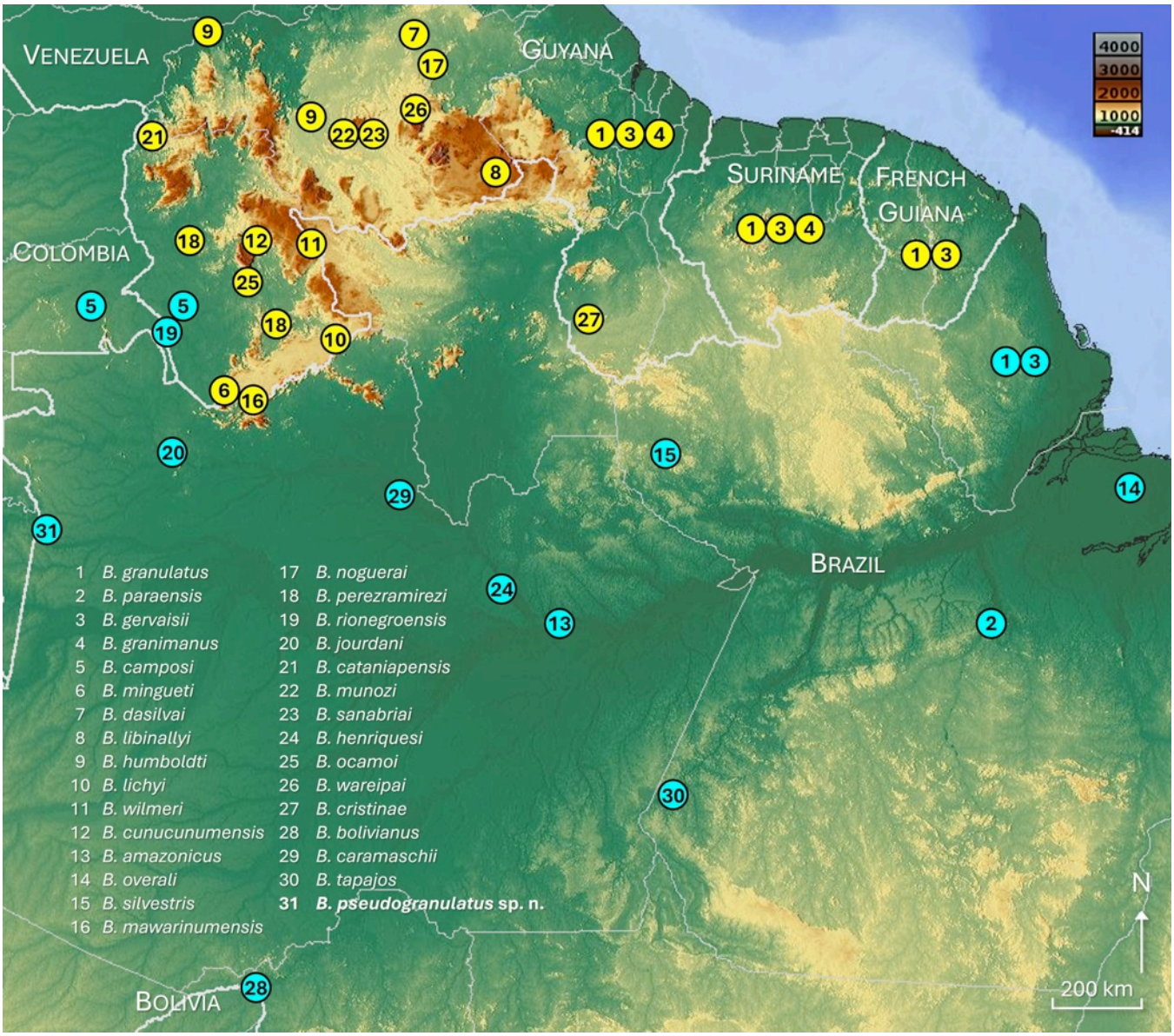

Fig. **13**. Map of northern South America showing the approximate known distribution of *Brotheas* species. Blue symbols indicate species occurring in the Amazon Basin. For *B. granulatus* and *B. gervaisii*, only country-level presence is indicated (Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and Amapá state in Brazil); the same applies for *B. granimanus* (Guyana and Suriname) and *B. paraensis* (Pará state in Brazil; type locality unclear).

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Authors contribution [1]

Publisher correspondence. – EY
Writing the article. – EY, WL
Description. – EY, WL
Article proofreading. – EY, WL
Bibliographic work. – EY, WL
Material study. – EY, WL
Author of the figures. – EY, WL

[1] **EY** = Ythier E. – **WL** = Lourenço W. R.

Fig. **14**. Rainforest in the Amazon Basin (Amazonas State, Brazil), habitat of *Brotheas pseudogranulatus* **sp**. **n**.

Résumé

Ythier E. & Lourenço W. R., 2026. – Une nouvelle espèce de *Brotheas* C. L. Koch, 1838 de l'Amazonie Brésilienne (Scorpiones: Chactidae). *Faunitaxys*, 14(30): 1 – 7.

Une nouvelle espèce de scorpion, *Brotheas pseudogranulatus* **sp**. **n**. (Scorpiones : Chactidae), est décrite de l'état d'Amazonas au Brésil, proche de la frontière avec la Colombie. La nouvelle espèce est notamment caractérisée par une granulation intense présente sur la plaque prosomienne et les tergites, et est un possible élément vicariant de *Brotheas granulatus* Simon, 1877, de la région Guayana d'Amérique du Sud. Le nombre total d'espèces appartenant au genre *Brotheas* est porté à 31, parmi lesquelles 14 sont présentes dans le bassin Amazonien, incluant 11 dans l'Amazonie Brésilienne. La distribution géographique du genre *Brotheas* est par ailleurs élargie.

Mots-clés. – Scorpion, Chactidae, *Brotheas*, morphologie, taxonomie, description, nouvelle espèce, distribution géographique; vicariance, Amazonie, Brésil.

Derniers articles publiés

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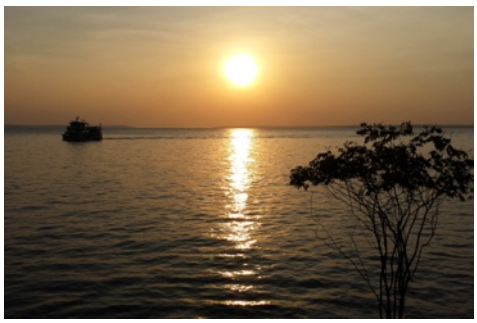

Illustration de la couverture :

Sunset on the Amazon river, Manaus, Brazil.

Crédits:

Eric Ythier : Fig. 1-2, 13, 14 & couverture.
Wilson R. Lourenço : Fig. 3-12.

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